

VI.—*Additional Note on the British Shrews.* By the Rev.

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SINCE the publication of my last memoir I have seen a third specimen of the *Chestnut shrew* in the museum of the Zoological Society; and on comparing it with my own, I find it so exactly similar, both in form and colours, with the sole exception of these last being somewhat paler, as to remove all doubt in my mind of its being a distinct species from the *Sorex tetragonurus*. The following may serve as the distinguishing characters of these two shrews:—

1. *S. tetragonurus*, Herm. (*Square-tailed Shrew*).—Snout broad, compared with that of the *common shrew*: feet, fore especially, much larger: tail slender, more quadrangular at all ages, and slightly attenuated at the tip; clothed with closely-appressed hairs in the young state, in age nearly naked: upper parts very deep reddish brown; under parts dark yellowish grey.

2. *S. castaneus*, Jen. (*Chestnut Shrew*).—Snout and feet much as in the last species, but the former rather more attenuated: tail moderately stout, nearly round, well clothed with hairs, which form at the extremity a long pencil; upper parts, as well as the snout, feet and tail, bright chestnut; under parts ash-grey.

The specimen of this shrew in the Museum of the Zoological Society is a female, not yet arrived at full size. The length of the head and body is 2 in. $1\frac{1}{2}$ lin. That of the tail, 1 in. $7\frac{1}{2}$ lin.

With regard to the error* of my considering the British water-shrew as distinct from the *S. fodiens* of the continent, I may observe that it has been already in part corrected in my last memoir, wherein I stated that further investigation had led me to believe that it was the real *S. fodiens* of Gmelin, as well as of Bechstein, Brehm, and Wagler. If it be also the *S. fodiens* of Duvernoy, the error of regarding them as distinct has originated, not with me, but with the author just mentioned, who must have assigned a wrong type of dentition to his own species. And such, from the statement of Nathusius quoted by the editor in the last number, would seem to be the case.

Swaffham Bulbeck, July 31, 1838.

* Alluded to by Nathusius in his memoir on the European shrews, according to the Editor of this Magazine, to whom I am indebted for drawing my attention to the circumstance. See the last number of the *Annals*, i. 427.